

# Welcome to the Governor's Council on Climate Change Public Forums Public Review Period Wrap-up

October 19, 2020

## Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection



# Public Forum Ground Rules

**This forum is being recorded and minutes will be taken.**

There will be a presentation lasting ~30 minutes, followed by break out discussions.

## **For presentation section:**

- Use the chat for comments and questions on all presentations. Please be respectful. Chat is public record.
- Break out discussions are for Q&A and feedback on subtopics.
- Please stay on mute and off of video to minimize distractions during presentation.



# Public Forum Ground Rules

Send a chat to Mary-Beth Hart (host) privately to tell her your break out session choice. **NO changing please.**

- **Mitigation**
- **Adaptation & Resilience**
  - **10 Volunteers for Google JamBoard Pilot**

Mary-Beth will move you to the break out sessions when we end the presentation by **5pm.**

In the break out session your moderator will facilitate a discussion on the mitigation or adaptation & resilience objectives using prompt questions.

Start with a round of introductions. Say your name before you speak.

Please join in on video and using verbal and written chat for discussion

Notes will be taken to capture general comment themes covered in discussion.

Use chat for detailed written comments.



# Public Forum Ground Rules

At **5:45pm** those who want to give formal public comment should 'leave their break out session'

Click 'leave' button and will have a choice to leave meeting or to leave break out room. Leave the break out room and come back into the main room.

Office of Climate Planning – Rebecca French, Director – will hear public comment by calling on individuals to speak.

Public comment is not a Q&A or discussion. It is listening only.

Please limit comments to 2 minutes.

**6:00pm** Break Out Sessions and Forum Conclude.



# Public Review Period

**You are attending a forum! How else can you participate?**

## **Read the Working Group Reports**

- Each working group prepared a report with the recommendations to allow for public review of their deliberations and findings.
- Posting link in the Chat

## **Provide Written Comments**

- Written comments on the working group reports will be accepted through *October 21, 2020* via email at [deep.climatechange@ct.gov](mailto:deep.climatechange@ct.gov).

## **Connect with Working Group Members and Tell Your Networks**



# *Guidance on Reviewing Working Group Reports*

- Pick a Working Group topic area or two to focus on
- Start with the Working Groups' public forum recordings and/or slides from those presentations.
- Focus your report reading time on those topics that you want to learn more about and/or an area where you want to make a comment.
- Use the Executive Summary or Table of Contents
  
- If you are providing detailed comments on multiple sections of a Working Group report, provide page numbers
  - For example, a comment could be "On page 5 of the report where you discuss building codes, I think Connecticut's building codes should incorporate..."
  
- **Written comments will be posted publicly to the GC3 website after the close of the review period and will be shared with the Council members**



# Google JamBoard

## NEW EMOJI - BRAINSTORM

meeting

pie chart

customer service

I really like this idea!

router

ID badge

org chart

sticky note

checklist

donut

wifi / internet

muffin



Thanks to Bryan Garcia, CT Green Bank and Sustainable CT Intern Lisa Noriega for leading pilot

# Governors Council on Climate Change (GC3) Work Group and Council Deliverables and Timeline

Public Review Period Wrap-up Public Forum

October 19, 2020



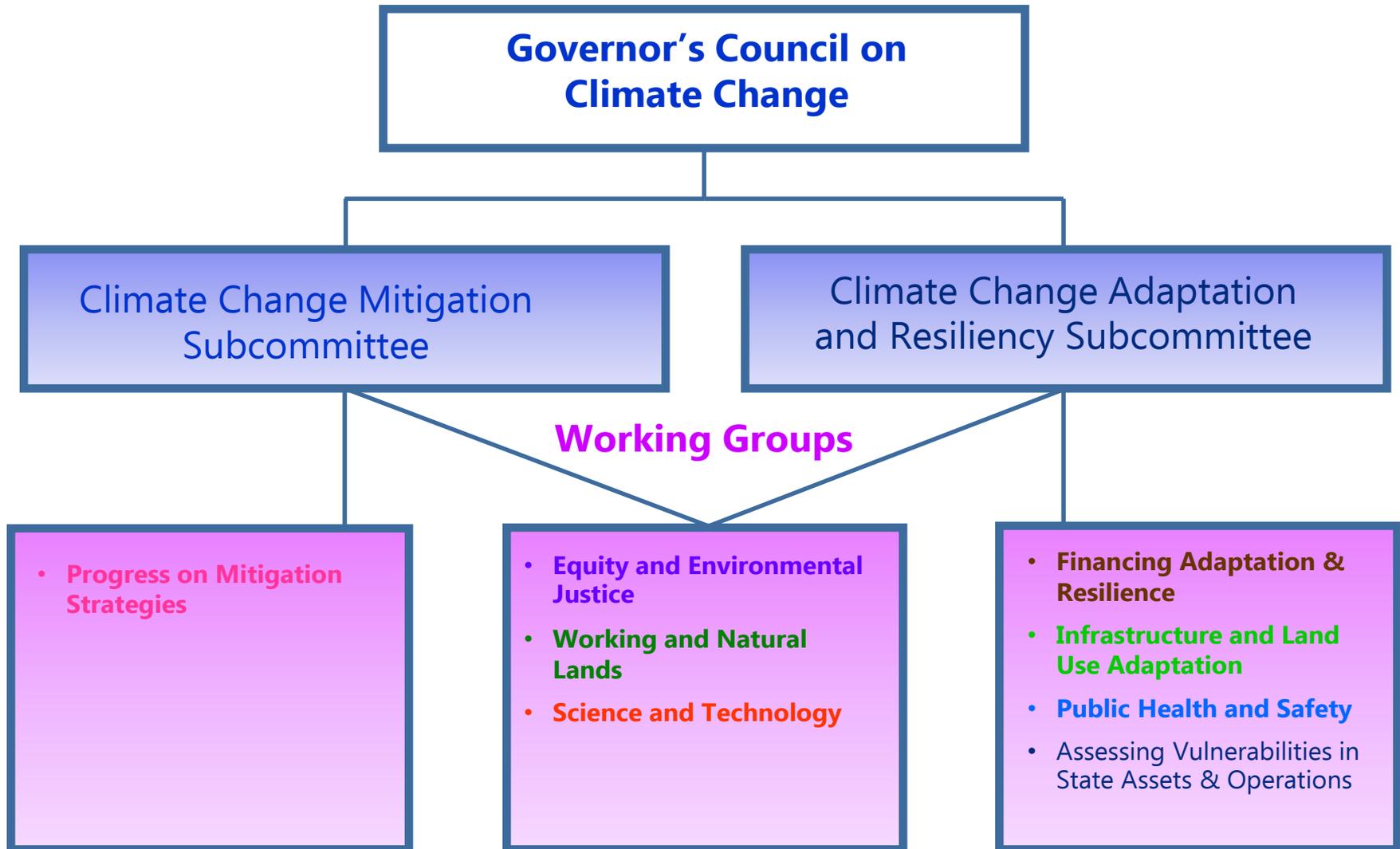
# GC3 Background and Objectives

**In September 2019, Governor Lamont rejuvenated the Governors Council on Climate Change (GC3) through Executive Order 3**, expanded its scope to include climate change adaptation, and tasked the Council with two primary objectives:

1. Monitor and report on the state's implementation of the greenhouse gas emissions reduction strategies set forth in the GC3's December 2018 recommendations report.
2. Develop and implement adaptation strategies to assess and prepare for the impacts of climate change in areas such as infrastructure, agriculture, natural resources, and public health.



# GC3 Structure



# Two Phase GC3 Process

- GC3 reporting process will continue through the end of 2021
- *Phase 1* interim reports provided to the Governor with initial recommendations by **January 15, 2021**
- *Phase 2* final report and recommendations provided by **December 31, 2021**



# Phase 1 Ends January 2021

- **Phase 1. By January 15, 2021, GC3 will provide the Governor with an interim report with prioritized recommendations including:**
  - An evaluation of the progress towards the implementation of mitigation strategies in the 2018 GC3 report (4) (*Phase 1 Mitigation Update*)
  - Updated recommendations for adapting to and improving the state's resilience to the effects of climate change based on the best available science (5b) (*Phase 1 Adaptation and Resilience Plan*)



# Phase 1: Working Group Reports

- Each Working Group will produce reports to inform the Council's report to the Governor.
- The Working Group reports will contain (as appropriate) *recommendations for the Council's review and potential adoption*.
- The Working Group reports will be appended to the Council's report when it is submitted to the Governor.



# Phase 1 Overall Timeline



# Phase 1 Council and WG Reports

## Phase 1 Council reports with prioritized recommendations

- Mitigation Update
- Adaptation and Resilience Plan
- GC3 Background and Process

## Phase 1 Work Group Reports

- Equity & Environmental Justice
- Science & Technology
- Progress on Mitigation Strategies
- Working and Natural Lands
- Infrastructure and Land Use Adaptation
- Public Health and Safety
- Financing Adaptation and Resilience



# Phase 2 Ends December 31 2021

- **Phase 2. By December 31, 2021, provide the Governor with a final report of the Governor's Council on Climate Change, including:**
  - A robust public participation and engagement process specifically targeting feedback from environmental justice communities.
  - Phase 2 Mitigation Update: An annual update to the recommendations for mitigation strategies from the January 15, 2021 interim report, incorporating additional feedback from the public participation process.
  - Phase 2 Adaptation & Resilience Plan: The development of a strategic statewide Adaptation and Resilience Plan that is informed by:
    - The review and synthesis of existing planning processes from the Phase 1 interim GC3 report
    - The public participation process
    - The vulnerability assessment and inventory of vulnerable assets prepared by state agencies called for in EO3 (5a)
    - The incorporation and alignment of climate adaptation strategies into state agency planning and process documents as required to be completed by December 31, 2021 in EO3. (5c)



# Questions for Tonight's Break Out Sessions



# Mitigation Objective Break Out

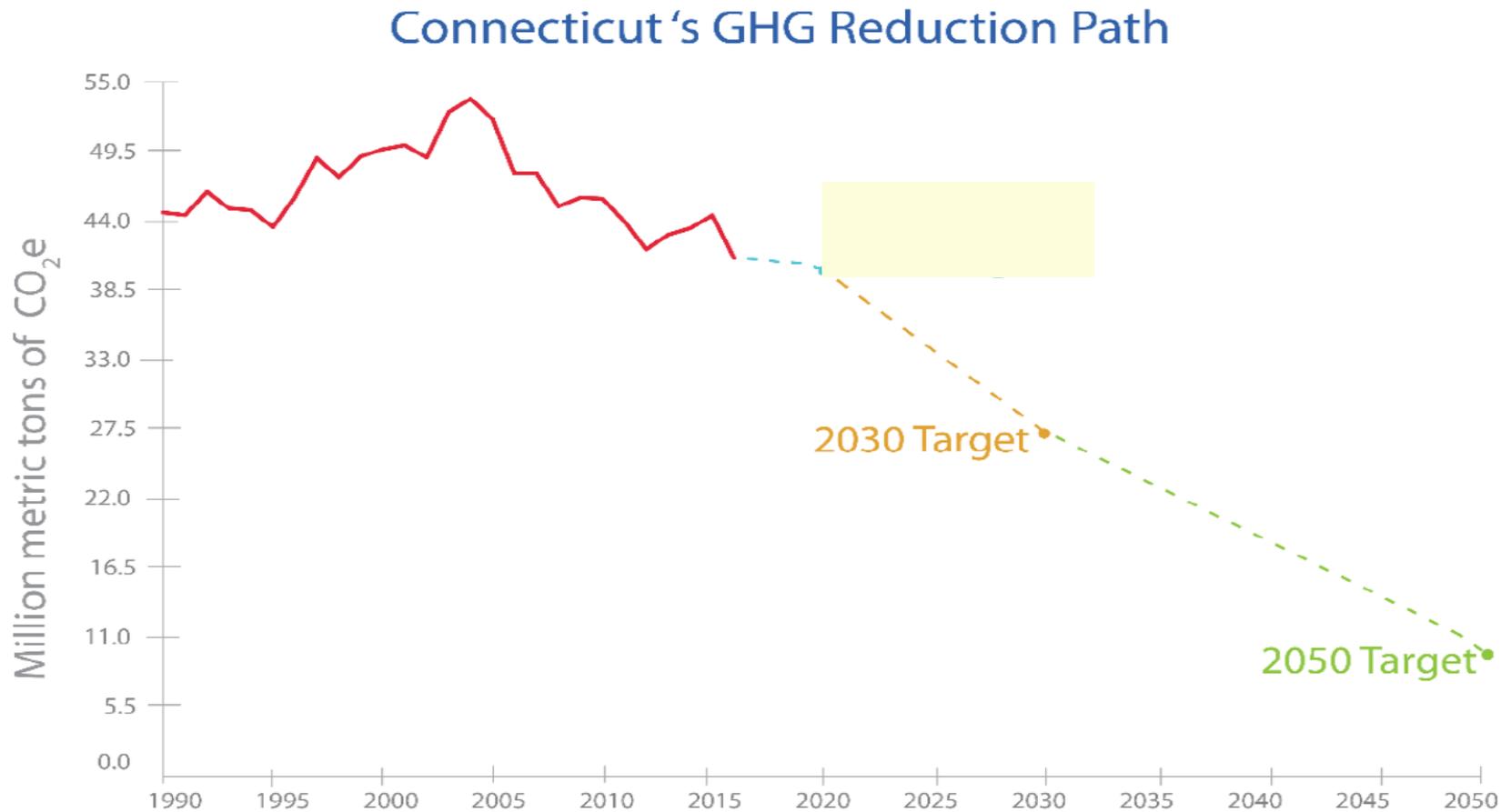
- If you could only make one recommendation to Governor Lamont related to mitigation of carbon emissions what would it be and why?

## Commitment to 45% Reduction in Emissions by **2030**

- 29% Reduction Transportation Emissions
- 34% Reduction in Buildings Emissions
- 71% Reduction in Electric Sector Emissions



# Connecticut's GHG Reduction Path



# Mitigation Objective Break Out

- What is your top priority for making sure we have an equitable sharing of the benefits of clean energy in Connecticut?
- Do you support a continued push for off-shore wind to power Connecticut and what community benefits do you see or concerns do you have?
- Do you support the idea of the Transportation and Climate Initiative (cap transportation emissions and invest \$\$ generated from auctions of allowances)? How should Connecticut equitably share the funds that would come from this program to invest in Connecticut?
- Do you see energy efficiency as a top priority for the built environment in Connecticut? Why?
- Do you think Connecticut should meet or exceed its goal of net zero by better accounting of carbon sequestered in our forests, wetlands, and soils? Why?
- How can we increase local involvement in energy decision making?
- Are there any concerns that we should be aware of related to the siting of large-scale renewable energy facilities?



# Adaptation & Resilience Objective Break Out

- If you could only make one recommendation to Governor Lamont related to adapting to the impacts of climate change what would it be and why?
- Connecticut's climate has changed and the sea level has risen.
- Changes will continue through at least 2050 due to impacts of past emissions.
- The extent of impacts beyond 2050 is directly tied to emissions decisions now.



# Connecticut's Climate has Changed and will Continue to Change

1. By 2050, average temperatures are expected to increase about 5°F, with increases thereafter dependent on emissions choices now.
2. Average precipitation is expected to increase about 8% (4 inches/year).
3. Indices of hot weather, summer drought, and extreme precipitation, are expected to increase.



# Connecticut's Sea Level has Risen and will Continue to Rise

1. Sea level is expected to rise by up to 20 inches by 2050, and to continue increasing after that.
2. Small changes in mean sea level have a big impact on the frequency of flooding.
3. Areas that experience flooding every few years now should expect flooding multiple times a year by 2050.



# Adaptation & Resilience Objective Break Out

- How do you think Connecticut can best protect our most vulnerable communities from the impacts of climate change?
- What else needs to be done to facilitate meaningful involvement of those most impacted by climate change in the climate adaptation planning process?
- What data is required to describe the most significant effects of climate change on your community?
- What is the best way to increase the public's understanding of climate science?
- What kinds of 'nature-based solutions' do you want to see in your community? More trees, rain gardens, living shorelines?
- Which impact of climate change has the most impact in your community and why?
- What is your top concern related to the health impacts of climate change and why?
- If we had a set amount of funds for planning or implementing resilience in Connecticut, would you prioritize planning or implementation of projects and why?



# Adaptation & Resilience Objective Break Out

- Do you think Connecticut should utilize bond funds backed by all taxpayers in Connecticut to pay for resilience projects or should projects be paid for by fees assessed on the people/businesses/organization etc. directly benefiting from an individual project? Why?
- What are the impacts of climate change that you see as posing the most significant health concerns *currently* in the community in which you live and/or with which you identify?" *Please describe your community as part of this response.*
- What transportation improvements would have the greatest benefit toward improving mobility in urban areas that will be impacted by flooding, storms and heat in the future?
- What are the most important actions that the state can take to assist municipalities with increasing resilience to flooding in vulnerable areas?



# Adaptation & Resilience Objective Break Out

- What climate adaptation impacts (sea level rise/flooding, storms, temperature) and impacted utility sectors should be given highest priority for further action to improve resiliency?
- Are there differences between what state versus local government can do to protect vulnerable populations from the negative health impacts of climate change in our state? If so, what do you think priorities for the state should be, and similarly, what are priorities for local government?
- Are there any populations or communities in Connecticut that are particularly vulnerable to the health impacts of climate change that the Public Health and Safety Working Group should consider further in recommendation development?
- How should costs of adaptation projects be divided between the Federal, state and local governments, and individuals?

